



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 10-15-2007

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 15, 2007

7:15 p.m.

Present: Ms. LaCourt, Chair, Ms. Mahon, Vice Chair, Mr. Greeley, Mr. Hurd, Ms. Rowe

Also present: Brian Sullivan, John Maher, and Marie Krepelka

*Mr. Greeley arrived at meeting 7:35 p.m.

**Mrs. Mahon left meeting at 8:30 p.m.

FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of Meeting: September 24, 2007

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

2. Keyspan Energy Delivery Petition/Park Ave. Extension

Francis X. O'Leary

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

3. Reappointments: Historical Commission

Pamela Meister

(term to expire 9/15/09)

Ms. Rowe moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

4. Jane Becker

(term to expire 2/9/10)

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

LICENSES & PERMITS

7:30 p.m.

5. Request: Common Victualler License and Beer & Wine License

Onno Lee, Kayuga II, LLC d/b/a Kayuga II Restaurant, 444-446 Mass. Ave.

Attorney Coleman stated that at this time there are no changes in premise or the seating capacity.

Mr. Hurd moved approval for the Common Victualler License SO VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Hurd moved approval for the Beer & Wine License. SO VOTED (4-0)

6. Request: Common Victualler License

Eric Varreil d/b/a Odyssey Pizza & Subs, 86 Mass. Ave

License request withdrawn.

Request: Common Victualler License

Sarkis Avakian d/b/a Whatta Wing, 218 Mass. Ave.

Ms. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

8. Request: Class II License

Eduard Gukasov d/b/a Broadway, 1 Broadway

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

9. Review: Joining NESGFOA Performance Management & Measurement Project

Stephen J. Gilligan, Treasurer

Town Treasurer Gilligan introduced Kimberley Hood, Project Coordinator of Worcester Regional Research Bureau who stated that the proposed project will be a collaborative effort among the NESGFOA, The Research Bureau, and 18 municipalities selected from the six New England states to develop and implement a citizen informed regional performance measurement system that will serve as a catalyst for service improvement at the local government level.

Participants will be selected based on their interest in measuring organization performance and their leadership commitment and organizational capacity to participate in the activities described in literature distributed. Participants will be asked to sign a three-year commitment, and will pay an annual fee of approximately \$5,400. The project hopes to start in February 2008. The municipalities chosen to participate in the pilot phase will be selected around December 30, 2007.

Mr. Greeley moved receipt of report and made a motion to refer to Town Manager, Kimberley Hood, Annie LaCourt, Chairman of Board of Selectmen, and Mr. Gilligan and come back with more information at the meeting of the BOS on October 29th.

SO VOTED (5-0)

10. Discussion: Harvest Ball

Patsy Kraemer

Ms. Kraemer invited the public to come celebrate Arlington's 200th Anniversary at the Harvest Ball, Saturday, November 3rd starting at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall Auditorium. Dance Music by The Winiker Orchestra, Art Exhibition "Seasons in Arlington" by Arlington Artists, Dance demonstrations by Dance Caliente, Grand March, Food by Beaujolais Catering. Tickets can be obtained at the Treasurer's Office, Town Hall. Deadline for obtaining tickets is October 26th.

11. Discussion: Human Rights Commission Letter

Joseph A. Curro, Jr., Chair

After much deliberation, the Human Rights Commission voted to support the action of the local No Place for Hate steering committee in suspending its certification process and further voted to rescind its endorsement of the Town's formal relationship with the ADL, such decision being subject to review in the future. This was a very difficult decision, as most Commissioners have great respect for many of the ADL's past accomplishments and support to our community. Some Commissioners made note of training opportunities and informational assistance that the ADL makes available to our Police Department.

The Arlington Human Rights Commission does commend all local residents who have worked together to make Arlington a more welcoming community and that full recognition and honest discussion of past atrocities – such as the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust are requisite to understanding and responding to contemporary genocidal crimes against humanity. Also, the Arlington Human Rights Commission does join in protest of any form of genocide denial and commits to facilitating education activities relative to genocide.

Ms. Rowe moved to adopt the Resolution of the Human Rights Committee.

SO VOTED (5-0)

12. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy under which the Open Forum was established.

A citizen from Arlington spoke about the history of the genocide, as well as his faith in the USA to do the right thing. He also recommended that the Board of Selectmen read the book entitled "The Burning Tigris – The Armenian Genocide & America's Response" describes the Armenia genocide issues.

Katherine Fennelly, Library Trustee, spoke regarding the 1st Peg Spengler Lectures Series that will be held on November 20, 2007, Town Hall Auditorium, at 8:00 p.m. Former Governor of New Hampshire Jeanne Sheheen will be the guest speaker.

William Burke, 17 Old Colony Lane, asked the Board of Selectmen if they would have someone clean the brass and oil the front doors of the Town Hall for the Harvest Ball. Also, the elevator is a disgrace and needs to be clean. He stated that we have a beautiful Town Hall and it needs to be taken care off.

Patricia Worden, 27 Jason Street, commended Mr. Curro for his dedication and work with the Human Rights Committee.

Also stated that she opposes the Affordable Housing Application and as a member of the Affordable Housing Task Force the committee voted to recommend that the Town should negotiate a better subsidy from the developer not from the Town of Arlington in exchange for allowing him to ignore our current Affordable Housing Bylaw. Mrs. Warden stated to "allow Fish to bypass the current bylaw at Symmes would be precedent setting for other developers in the pipeline in Arlington."

Dr. Susan Hagopian, 385 Mass. Avenue, commended the Board of Selectmen for endorsing the resolution passed by the Human Rights Commission and sever its ties with the ADL and its program, No Place for Hate. Given ADL's position on the Armenian Genocide and Foxman's ambiguous statement on it as well as its effort to opposed a Congressional resolution acknowledging the Genocide, she hoped the Board will take action in rescinding Arlington's affiliation with the ADL's NPFH program.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

13. Discussion: Mass. Ave Revitalization

Kevin O'Brien, Director Planning and Community Development

Mr. Edward Tsoi, member of the Redevelopment Board, presented the Massachusetts Avenue Revitalization Plan to the Board of Selectmen. During the last several months, the Planning Dept. and Redevelopment Board has been conducting community forums and surveys to understand what the citizens of Arlington feel are the areas needing improvement. A consistent theme has been the desire to improve the commercial access of Arlington, especially along Mass. Avenue.

Several years ago, the Redevelopment Board focused on the Heights and encouraged shop owners to paint and spruce up their establishments while street improvements were being done. The Board now has a similar opportunity to encourage the revitalization of the Center and East Arlington. While street improvements may be some years off, there is no reason why the Redevelopment Board cannot encourage a program of renovations and revitalization.

Mr. Greeley moved receipt of report.

SO VOTED (4-0)

14. Approval: 2008 Health Insurance Rates

Brian F. Sullivan, Town Manager

Mr. Sullivan stated that the rate increases are considerably higher than in previous years, ranging from 15% to 49%. Our largest plan, HMO Blue will see an increase of 16% for individual plans and 18% for family plans. The claims for the past year have been running much higher than normal and it is our hope that this trend is an aberration and will be smaller next year. The reinsurance premium is insurance protection which pays for any catastrophic claim over \$100,000. A larger than anticipated increase last year coupled with this increase in high cost claims leads us to believe that the reinsurance premium will be high.

Jack Sharry of Group Benefits Strategies did a 2008 Renewal Review. He stated that the Advisory Committee would reconvene in three months.

Lt. Kenneth Hughes, Chairman of the Health Insurance Advisory Committee, stated at this time the rate is too high but would like to have further investigation to substantiate said rates. He asked to meet in March 2008 after several months experience with the new rates and reassess rates at that time. The Advisory Committee is pleased that they has been more dialogue with Town officials, but still feels that some of these rates may adjust itself by March, 2008.

Ms. Rowe stated she was disappointed that Lt Hughes couldn't endorse the 2008 Health Insurance Rates but is delighted

to hear the process is better.

Mr. Greeley moved to accept recommended rates and asked the Health Insurance Advisory Committee to come before the Board in March 2008.

SO VOTED (4-0)

15. Discussion: Guidelines for Awards Committee

John W. Hurd, Selectman

Mr. Hurd suggested that the Award Nomination Committee submit three names for each category to the Board. The Committee will present the nominations to the Board the week of Nov. 5th.

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

16. Discussion: Affordable Housing at Symmes

Laura Wiener, Director of Housing

John Griffin, Arlington Housing Authority

Mr. Greeley moved to execute the LIP application including the marketing plan, which provides for rental pricing at 80 percent of median income, as approved by the Arlington Redevelopment Board contingent upon Symmes Redevelopment Associates providing the sum of \$150,000 to be utilized for subsidizing affordable housing units, said sum to be deposited in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund or similar account for such propose.

SO VOTED (3-0)

Ms. Rowe reclused herself.

Mrs. Mahon was absent.

17. Update: Summer Street

Diane M. Mahon, Selectman

Jeannie Leary, 425 Summer Street, thanked John Bean, Director of Public Works, Brian Sullivan and Selectman Mahon for all their help the past two years in working with the residents of Summer Street throughout all the construction problems. Joel Higginson, 433 Summer Street, also thanked everyone for their help especially regarding the audible signals at Summer Street and Ronald Road.

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of report of Town Manager.

SO VOTED (5-0)

18. Discussion: Arlington Recycle Week

Gordon Jamieson, Katrina Rideout, Peter Howard, and Adrian Wheelock appeared before the Board and asked the Selectmen to designate Arlington Recycle Week November 12 – November 18, 2007. Mr. Jamieson will appear before the Board at their meeting on November 5th to receive Proclamation

Correspondence Received

John J. Maher Tax Title Conveyance
Town Counsel

Be Rec'd

Mr. Greeley moved approval to sign a deed conveying said property (14 Cottage Avenue).

SO VOTED (4-0)

New Business:

Mr. Sullivan invited the Board to attend the Park Circle Fire Station Open House on Saturday, October 20th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Local 1297 would like to invite the citizens of Arlington to celebrate the opening of the new Park Circle Fire Station.

Mr. Hurd asked the Town Manager how many graffiti citations have been issued and when did it become law. Also asked if the Police Department is proactive when they are on patrol?

Ms. Rowe stated that the Town has received the Firm Flood Insurance Map and she will have her company make copies for the department that need said maps. We only received one map and she will be happy to make additional copies. The Tri-Community Meeting will be discussing the preliminary flood insurance study at their next meeting.

She attended the Cemetery Commission Meeting before attending tonight's meeting and they are making progress looking at all parts of Town including Lexington to expand cemetery lots. Forty-two (42) spaces have been given back to the town on the by-back agreement. They are also meeting with the Conservation Commission to look at Cooks Hollow. They are talking to the Capital Planning Committee regarding repairs to the Chapel that is in badly need of repairs

Ms. Rowe stated Menotomy Rocks Park is almost done. She thanked Joe Connolly, Director of Parks and Recreation, the Contractor, and Parks & Recreation Commission all who have done a great job. Also, the park is planning their annual Spooky Halloween event at dusk.

Mr. Hurd moved to adjourn at 10:45 p.m.

(SO VOTED 4-0)

A true record: Attest:

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator

The next meeting of the BOS, October 29, 2007.